

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-46. Cancelled.

47. (Allowed) A sustained release therapeutic nail varnish composition comprising:

- (a) an antifungal effective amount of an antifungal agent;
- (b) a keratolytic agent in an amount sufficient to increase and facilitate penetration of said antifungal agent into the nail;
- (c) greater than 3% (w/w) of a humectant to trap water;
- (d) water in an amount sufficient to hydrate the nail and thereby to further increase permeability of the nail in combination with said keratolytic agent;
- (e) a liquid nail lacquer component comprising a polymeric film forming agent and a

volatile solvent, said agent selected to form a sustained release film upon application of said composition on a nail and evaporation of said volatile solvent;

said sustained release film configured to trap water from said composition and maintain it in contact with said nail, said water and said humectant in combination still further facilitating penetration of said antifungal agent into the nail, and thereby enhancing therapeutic effectiveness of said antifungal agent.

48. (Allowed) The nail varnish of claim 47, wherein said antifungal agent is selected from the group consisting of amphotericin B, butefanine, butoconazole, carbol-fuchsin, ciclopirox, clioquinol, clotrimazole, econazole, gentian violet, ketoconazole, miconazole, naftifine, nystatin, oxiconazole, sodium thiosulfate, terbinafine, terconazole, tolnaftate, undecylenic acid, therapeutically acceptable salts thereof, derivatives thereof and mixtures thereof.

49. (Allowed) The nail varnish of claim 48, wherein said antifungal agent is clotrimazole or miconazole nitrate.



desoximetasone, diflorasone, fluocinolone, fluocinonide, flurandrenolide, halcinonide, hydrocortisone, mometasone, prednicarbate and triamcinolone, salts thereof, derivatives thereof, and mixtures thereof.

64.-65. Cancelled.

66. (Allowed) The nail varnish of claim 47, wherein said humectant is selected from the group consisting of glycerol, sorbitol and mixtures thereof.

67.-68. Cancelled.

69. (Allowed) The nail varnish of claim 47, wherein said water is present in an amount of less than about 5% of the total weight of the composition.

70. (Allowed) The nail varnish of claim 47, wherein said water is present in an amount of from about 0.4% to about 25% of the total weight of the composition excluding said volatile solvent.

71. (Allowed) The nail varnish of claim 47, wherein said polymeric film forming agent is selected from the group consisting of hydrophobic polymers.

72. (Allowed) The nail varnish of claim 71, wherein said hydrophobic polymer is selected from the group consisting of hydrophobic cellulose derivatives, hydrophobic methacrylic polymers, cellulose acetate phthalate, shellac, derivatives thereof, and mixtures thereof.

73. (Allowed) The nail varnish of claim 72, wherein said hydrophobic cellulose derivative is ethyl cellulose.

74. (Allowed) The nail varnish of claim 72, wherein said hydrophobic methacrylic polymer is selected from the group consisting of methacrylic acid copolymer type B (USP/NF), methacrylic





- (c) dissolving a keratolytic agent and an antifungal agent into the solution prepared in (b);
- (d) adding an humectant to the solution prepared in (c); and
- (e) dissolving a polymeric film forming agent in the solution prepared in (d);

said film forming agent being selected so as to form a sustained release film upon application of the formulation on a nail and evaporation of said volatile solvent, said sustained release film configured to trap water in contact with the nail and the surrounding tissues.

94. Cancelled.

95. (Allowed) The sustained release therapeutic nail varnish composition of claim 47 further comprising an excipient.

96. (Allowed) A sustained release therapeutic nail varnish composition comprising:

- (a) an antifungal effective amount of an antifungal agent;
- (b) a keratolytic agent in an amount sufficient to increase and facilitate penetration of said antifungal agent into the nail;
- (c) a humectant to trap water;
- (d) a liquid nail lacquer component comprising a polymeric film forming agent and a volatile solvent; and
- (e) water;

wherein upon application on a nail, the volatile solvent evaporates and a sustained release film coating forms on the surface of the nail, the sustained release film coating releasing the antifungal and keratolytic agents in respective effective amounts over a prolonged period of time and trapping water in contact with the nail; the humectant retaining water in the film; and said humectant and said water further increasing permeability of the nail surface and still further facilitating penetration of the released antifungal agent below the nail surface.



